



OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: S Holt
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OPC RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE at The School House on Monday 24 February 2020 from 7:30pm

Present: Cllr M Evans (in the Chair), Cllr P Clucas, Cllr J Lawrey, Cllr I Roy
Also Present: Mr M Richards (OAA) (for the duration of his report)
Clerk: Mrs S Holt

Public Forum: No members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for Absence – Mrs K Drake (OSA).
2. Declaration of Interest - None.
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2019 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters arising from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda – None.
5. Allotments
 - a A written report was received from the Allotments Association.
 - b Plot Lettings. All the plots are now let and there is a waiting list.
 - c Inspection of Plots. It was agreed that the inspections will be carried out in June and September 2020.
 - d The Ash tree beside the footpath at Mill Meadow needs the ivy cut on the trunk. It was agreed that Cllr Clucas will progress this at the work party. 29/18 PC Continuing
 - e Allotments Rents. The Clerk will prepare a five year income/expense report. 20/19 Clerk
 - f Brian Thomas has carried out mowing of the main paths prior to the OAA work parties. It is hoped that this will continue in 2020.
 - g Plot Numbering. It is hoped that the plot numbering will be carried out in the Spring. 1/20 OAA
 - h Damage following the break-in. OPC has replaced the lock on the main gate. 36/19 Completed
 - i Greenhouse on the Allotments. The Clerk will check to see if greenhouses are allowed on the Allotments and for any planning restrictions. 37/19 Clerk Continuing
 - j Installation of a secure container. This project is progressing. The Methodist Church has been consulted. It is proposed that the container will be sited alongside the rear wall of the Church in a position that does not affect any of the windows. The container will be painted green and covered with trellis and climbing plants. 2/20 OAA
 - k Otford Village Autumn Show. OAA members have taken on the task of organising the Autumn Show for the benefit of the village following the demise of the Otford Gardeners Society.
 - l The large Ash tree beside the footpath in Mill Meadow has been removed.
 - m The border hedges beside the tennis court and the Methodist Hall have been cut.
6. OSA
 - a A written report was received from Mrs Drake.
 - b OCC reported that the metal poles around the cricket square will be replaced by plastic poles. Hazard notices will be attached. To date this has not been carried out. Continuing.
 - c Post and Rail Fence. It is understood that a new application is being prepared for post and rail fencing around the floodlit football pitch. Otford PC will wait for a formal application before considering this again. 9/19
 - d OUJFC has asked for extra storage at both the Hale Lane and High Street recreation grounds. Cllr Clucas and Mr Thomas will be looking into this. 2/18 PC/BT Continuing
 - e The football clubs have amalgamated. The new leases have been completed and signed by both parties. 21/19 Completed
 - f OPC agreed the recommendation to run a defibrillator training course for the public once the new defibrillators have been installed in the sports pavilions. 24/19 Clerk Continuing

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| g | The football club is very good at keeping the Otford teams out of the play area in their football boots. The Clerk has asked the Club to make sure the visiting teams do not go in there as well. Notices have been redone. | 38/19 Clerk Completed |
| h | OPC has been asked to consider treating the Recreation Ground with wormicides. EU rules have withdrawn all but one wormicide and this is very expensive and is active for a quarter of the amount of time as previous ones. This will be monitored. | 3/20 BT |
| i | Petanque. It was noted that Mr Wickenden will be retiring at the AGM. It was also noted that the terrain will need attention in 2020 with the barge boards and surface stones needing replacement. | |
| j | Otford Cricket Club has decided to merge with Shoreham Cricket Club. The nets will be repaired and these will remain as a public facility. The Cricket Club can request a grant towards the repair. | |
| k | Defibrillators. The defibrillators for the sports pavilions will be purchased by OUFC in the near future. | |
| l | Nominations for the Kirsch Cup. This will be discussed at the OSA AGM. | |
| 7. | <u>High Street Recreation Ground</u> | |
| a. | A report was received from Brian Thomas. | |
| b | Dog Fouling. Notices stating 'Please keep dogs on a lead when sports are being played' have been installed. | 25/19 Clerk Continuing |
| | Large metal signs have been purchased and will be erected at each entrance. | |
| c | Trim trail equipment. The trim trail has been installed and the project completed. A post installation safety inspection has been carried out. | 26/19 Completed |
| d | Some minor work has been identified as being required to the roundabout. The bushes have been replaced in both sets of swings. | 34/19 Clerk/BT |
| e | Waste bin to be placed on the patio. This is a job for OVMH when they are ready. | Completed |
| f | The three acacia trees by Park Lane have been dead-wooded. A further tree in the area with a split trunk has been removed. | |
| g | Entrance points to the Recreation Ground. The concrete and mud around the entrance points are being monitored. | 39/18 Clerk/BT Continuing |
| h | The hedge behind the football pavilion has been cut but the hedgerow between the tennis courts and the petanque court needs lowering as it is growing through the fencing. | 2/19 BT |
| l | New seats, chains and bearings are on order for the youth swings. | 4/20 BT |
| j | The hedges around the Recreation Ground have been cut. | |
| k | Mr Thomas will be asked to put more anti-vandal paint on the Youth Shelter to prevent children from climbing on the roof. | 5/20 Clerk |
| 8. | <u>Chalk Pit</u> | |
| a | There is more graffiti on the sign close to the Scout Hut. The Clerk will speak to the Community Warden about removing it. | 15/19 Clerk |
| b | The chalk grassland area had several Bee Orchids this summer and numerous wild flowers. A meeting to discuss how to manage the area will be held. | 29/19 BT Continuing |
| c | No voluntary work in the Chalk Pit that would be suitable for youth groups has been identified. | 40/19 Clerk/BT Completed |
| d | The Scouts have done a good job of reinstating the grass area after their bonfire night. | |
| e | Tree work along the road frontages have taken place. | |
| 9. | <u>Hale Lane Recreation Ground/Pavilion/Telston Park</u> | |
| a | Equipment for the over 12s. It was agreed that £5000 would be placed in the budget for this item as a start. | 37/18 Clerk Continuing |
| | It has been suggested that a hard standing is installed around the basketball hoop similar to the one at Nightingale Rec in Kemsing. Quotes will be sought. | 41/19 |
| b | Swing. It was agreed the top bar and cast iron mouldings will be painted and the bolts will be replaced at the end of the chains. Safety matting will be installed under the swing. | 38/18 Clerk/BT Continuing |
| c | The North West Kent Countryside Partnership has started the planting work in the top hedge and on the South side. | 41/19 |
| d | The posts by the Pavilion will be reset at they are loose. | 31/19 BT |
| e | The Hazel trees have been coppiced. | 32/19 Completed |
| f | OUFC are no longer using the football pitch. It is understood they will continue to mow the pitch. | |
| g | The heritage orchard needs to be pruned. | |
| h | A fence alongside the path from Willow Park has been steadily rotting. The condition of the fence will be monitored for safety. | 33/19 BT |
| i | Three Hazel stools have been coppiced at the rear of two houses in Willow Park. | |

- j Access from the stream into the rear gardens of properties in Darnets Field has been blocked.
- k A sycamore tree at the rear of Willow Park houses has been lowered to make it safe.
- l The Chairman will be asked to consider whether to replace the post at the entrance to Telston Park to prevent cars driving into the Park. 6/20 Clerk
10. Oxenhill Wood
a Winter work has been carried out.
11. Village Green, Pond and Palace Field
a Four new roses have been planted in the rose bed. The variety is called Remembrance.
b The apple trees have been pruned in the Community Orchard. A copy of the drawing showing the placement of each variety will be passed to the Parish Office. 4/19 Clerk/BT
12. Cemetery
a Car Park Litter. McDonalds has been asked to clear the area more often and to consider putting in another bin. 16/19 Clerk Continuing
b The new cemetery paths project has started. A specification is being prepared.
c The compost bins have been emptied and spread on the rose bed on the Village Green.
d A groundwater pollution risk assessment is being prepared by Mr Thomas. 7/20 BT
e Members agreed that the Stone Masons information notice will be put up. 8/20 BT
f Members agreed that a notice board will be placed in the car park. 9/20 Clerk
13. Palace Park Wood
a Woodland Trust. Council agreed to cancel the lease with Woodland Trust. Solicitors have been instructed. 42/19 Continuing
b DVLP. An application for funding has been submitted.
c Work has taken place to dead wood the Oak tree.
d Two lorry loads of wood chip have been spread on top of a membrane on the main path from the car park.
15. Correspondence
16. Other Matters
a Toilets. St Bartholomew’s Church has written to the Diocese regarding the surrender of the lease for the old toilets. 27/18 Clerk Continuing
b Tree Survey. Council agreed the quotes and the tree work is being carried out. 43/19 Completed
c Recreation Ground Path. It was agreed that this will be deferred indefinitely.
17. Youth Matters
17.1 The Family Fun Day for Oxford will take place on Wednesday 5 August 2020 from 10am – 2pm. The Memorial Hall has been booked in case of bad weather.
17.2 Members agreed to ask Bojangles if they can offer refreshments at the event. 10/20 Clerk
18. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 27 April 2020 at 7:30pm.